

Remarks

Claims 1-32, 36 and 39-63 are pending in the application. Claims 33-35, 37 and 38 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim rejections

Section 102

Claims 1, 2, 8-19, 21-24, 28-31, 33, 36, 38, 42-46 and 50-57 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lunsford et al. (US App. Pub. No. 2002/0065041) ("Lunsford"). Claim 33 has been canceled. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims. Lunsford cannot support the rejection for at least the reason that it does not disclose "generating a dialing request at a remote control device based on an operation of a user interface consisting of a single dedicated control of the remote control device, the dedicated control dedicated to generating the dialing request to transmit a binary-valued dialing signal to a mobile communication device," as recited in independent claim 1. The other independent claims recite substantially similar features.

According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, "to dedicate" means "to set apart or devote formally or seriously to a definite use, end or purpose." The website www.dictionary.com defines "to dedicate" means "to set aside for or assign to a specific function, task, or purpose." Lunsford does not disclose a user interface consisting of a single dedicated control as claimed (note the use of the exclusive form, "consisting of"). Instead, Lunsford only discloses a user having to interact "with an application executing on the PID" (Lunsford, par. [0009]). To interact with the application, the user must "select a contact, address, phone number, or the like, through a GUI of the PID" (Lunsford, par. [0009]).

The process of the interacting with the application is more fully described in paragraph [0059]:

"FIG. 6A shows an address list as presented by address book program 109 on PID 12. For example, address book 109 executes a 'lookup' feature to call up contact information for various people/organizations stored within memory. The user can then

select the person/organization to place a call to. In this example, the user has selected 'Bill Boomer' by, for example, tapping on the entry with a stylus. In response to the selection, address book program 109 then presents information associated with the selection made in FIG. 6A. The user can then confirm the correct selection is presented in the GUI, and then select the appropriate button for the specific telephone number to dial (e.g., work, home, fax, or pager). Then, as shown in FIG. 6C, the user can once again confirm the correct number is presented in the GUI, and select 'OK' to initiate the automatic dialing process. If the number shown is incorrect, the user can modify the prefix by, for example, removing or altering the area code, or correcting any of the other digits of the number, or cancel the entire process."

As can be seen by the above, in Lunsford user interaction with the application requires many operations and manipulations. The application does not consist of a single dedicated control, but of many functions which must be selected, confirmed and so on. By contrast, in the present invention, a user need only interact with an interface consisting of a single dedicated control. This greatly simplifies and speeds user interaction, making the invention ideal in such settings as, for example, an automotive cabin as described in the present specification in paragraph [0032].

Additionally, Lunsford does not disclose a binary-valued dialing signal as claimed. Support for this feature may be found in the present specification at paragraph [0022] (dialing signal may be a voltage pulse or generated by the closing or opening of a switch). This feature is consistent with the overall simplicity and ease of use of the claimed design. In Lunsford, by contrast, the PID must, after receiving user inputs to select a telephone number, send the number to a telephone to be dialed. See Lunsford, paragraph [0057], for example.

In view of the above, the claims are allowable over Lunsford. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 103

Claims 3-5, 25-27, 34, 35, 39-41, 47-49 and 58-61 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford in view of Holt et al. (US App. Pub. No. 2005/0113074). Claims 34 and 35 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully

traverses the rejection of the remaining claims. The listed dependent claims include the features of the independent claims, and are therefore allowable over Lunsford for at least the reasons discussed above. Holt does not cure the deficiencies in Lunsford. Accordingly, the claims are likewise allowable over the combination of Lunsford and Holt. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 62 and 63 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford in view of Holt, and further in view of Cheung (US App. Pub. No. 2004/0024647). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 6 and 7 depend on claim 1, and claims 62 and 63 depend on claim 56. Claims 1 and 56 are allowable over Lunsford and Holt for reasons discussed above, and Cheung does not cure deficiencies in Lunsford and Holt with respect to claims 1 and 56. Claims 1 and 56 are therefore allowable over the combination of Holt, Lunsford and Cheung. Accordingly, claim 6, 7, 62 and 63 are likewise allowable over Holt, Lunsford and Cheung for at least the reasons discussed in connection with claims 1 and 56. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lunsford in view of Kumar et al. (US App. Pub. No. 2003/0081758) ("Kumar"). The Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 20 depends on claim 1, and claim 32 depends on claim 23. Lunsford and Kumar fail to suggest the features of independent claims 1 and 23, for reasons discussed previously. Therefore, claims 20 and 32 are allowable over Lunsford and Kumar for at least the reason that they depend on one of claims 1 or 23. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

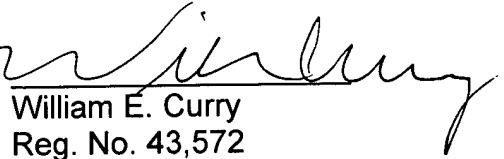
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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